

A NEW NATIONAL PARK.

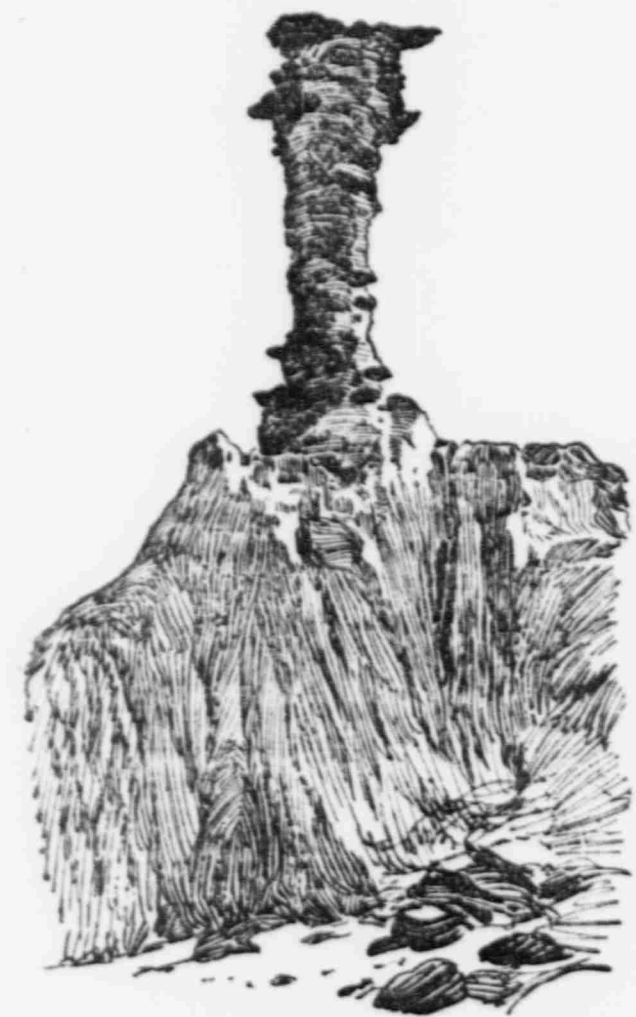
The Petrified Forests of Arizona Are to Be Preserved.

Special correspondence of The Florida Star.

CARRIZO, A. T., July 9.—Yellowstone park, the Yosemite valley, Niagara and all the other well known points of national beauty and interest are to have added to their number one well worthy of national preservation. The petrified forest of Arizona is to be a national park, and the inhabitants are preparing to welcome the tourists who, it is expected, will flock to see this national phenomenon, which amply repays the trouble necessary to reach it.

This great collection of chalcidony trees is situated in the desert, about eight miles south of Carrizo, a station on the Atlantic and Pacific railroad, in Apache county, in the eastern part of the territory. It consists of a great number of trees, overthrown and imbedded in the ground, whose wood, by the action of water during countless years, has been changed into a species of agate. The stone preserves the outward characteristics of the wood. In many cases it is possible to determine the age of the tree by counting the rings. These petrified trees are much older than those in the Yellowstone park or in Wyoming or California and date back to the early part of the mesozoic age, supposed to have been about 8,000,000 years before man. The theories of the formation of the forest are interesting. At that time what is now the North American continent is supposed to have been completely covered by water, and this particular bit of it, the valley where the petrified trees are, was then a valley on the bed of the ocean. From some neighboring land, perhaps now at the bottom of the Pacific, a great number of trees belonging to some extinct coniferous species drifted here. Becoming waterlogged, they sank to the bottom of the ocean in the positions in which they still remain after so many millions of years. They were then covered by sand and converted, in the slow processes of countless years, into agate. They were completely covered by the wet, sticky sand, and as the wood gradually decayed the sand was forced in to take its place grain for grain, thus preserving the exact feature of the wood while converting the tree as a whole into stone. Thus, as year after year the process went on under the most favorable conditions, the log of wood became one of stone of the hardest possible consistency. The sand around them in the meanwhile hardened into stone, completely covering and hiding the trees. Then came the great upheaval which raised the entire continent above the surface of the waters. After long years the sand and rock were disintegrated and washed away, but the trees, being much harder, were left. Then the streams dried up and left them as they are now, strewn on the bottom and sides of a valley. This is one theory. Another is that the trees grew here and were petrified in the same manner, after being overthrown by a flood. This latter theory seems to be borne out by the fact that many of the trees are found with the roots downward, imbedded in the ground, while the tops are broken off. However, the fact remains that the trees are here and are entirely of stone, although they look as natural as though they had been recently cut down.

The valley, or Chalcedony park, as it is sometimes called, is about 15 miles in length, although narrow. At its widest part it is not more than half a mile wide. The sides slope down grad-



PETRIFIED TREE.

ually, in some places being about 50 feet high. This long, narrow stretch of ground holds other curiosities for the sightseer than the petrified trees, for in it are found the scattered remains of occupation by prehistoric Indians. Their villages are composed in most cases of only a few houses, and a peculiar interest is lent to the houses by the fact that they are built largely of petrified wood. These earliest natives of Arizona had the taste to build their houses of the beautiful stone-wood, constructing them of cylinders of uniform size. There may have been no other

material with which to build, for the forest is situated in an arid desert, with very little or no vegetation near.

The forest has already attracted many tourists, who by helping themselves to the rarest specimens have injured it to some extent. Much of it, however, remains, and it should and will by adequate government protection be allowed to remain.

CHARLES W. MILLER.

During last May an infant child of our neighbor was suffering from cholera infantum. The doctors had given up all hopes of recovery. I took a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy to the house, telling them I felt sure it would do good if used according to directions. In two days' time the child had fully recovered. The child is now vigorous and healthy. I have recommended this remedy frequently, and have never known it to fail.—Mrs. Curtis Baker, Bookwalter, Ohio. Sold by Wilson & Son.

THE BIG SHOW OF CURIOS.

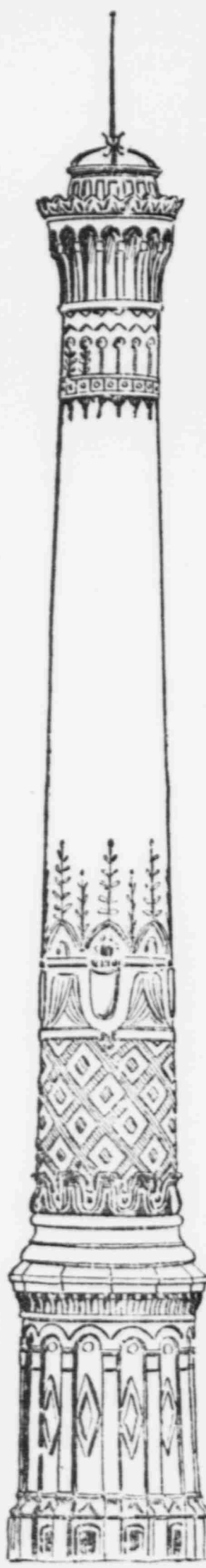
Strange People and Things That One Can See at the Paris Exposition.

Special correspondence of The Florida Star.

PARIS, June 30.—France has succeeded in getting the strangest nations of the earth interested in her big exposition. Asia and Africa are well represented. Parsee merchants from Bombay preside over costly stocks of Indian curios, and the average observer divides his admiration between the marvelous wares and the shrewd financiers who have made their influence felt throughout the world. The tea pavilion contains representatives of China, Japan, Ceylon and Spain, with Ceylon much more prominent than her importance is understood to warrant. In this the knowing American thinks he can detect the advertising genius of Sir Thomas Lipton, who seems to be able to keep himself at the front in everything with which he is identified except yacht races.

Among the many curious things from the ends of the earth is a complete set of bed hangings manufactured in Madagascar from the silk of the halabe,

the native name of a big spider of proverbial ferocity. In this exhibit the admirers of fine textures find much gratification, but the believers in the emancipation of the gentler sex are the ones who are thrown into ecstasies. Not only does the halabe refuse to obey the male members of her tribe, but she eats them, thereby solving at one and the same time a problem in sociology and another in economics. The halabe also devours the weaker members of her own sex, but greatly prefers a strictly male diet. Nogue, the head of the Antananarivo technical school, has been studying the instincts and life of this insect for many years and after much perseverance has now perfected a neat arrangement for winding off the thread with which the spider spins its web. Each spider yields from 300 to 400 yards of this silk, which is somewhat finer than that spun by the silkworm, but nevertheless it possesses extraordinary strength and is of a light golden color. Perhaps the strangest exhibit of all is that of Cambodia, in Cathay. The Cambodians have set up a set of their gods in the Trocadero garden and reproduced the curious hill of Phnom Penh, on top of which is the golden pagoda of their king. The pagoda is reached by a flight of 40 steps, and the way is guarded by all sorts of deities on duty as policemen. At the top are two gigantic figures, each armed with a club, and the entrance to the sacred hall which goes with the kingly equipment is protected by a huge statue of Buddha. The fauna and flora of the east have been introduced in the decorations, together with the mythical creations of the Buddhist pantheon and the friezes and bas-reliefs of the famous pagodas of Jag and Anker. The effect is beautiful, the artistic absorbing



HUGE CHIMNEY.

what might otherwise appear grotesque.

The Cambodians are themselves quite as interesting as their deities and appear to good advantage in the adjacent representation of one of their villages. They are as small and gentle as the Javanese, who attracted so much and favorable attention in the Midway. The women have their hair braided in attractive fashion and knitted into a device resembling an umbrella cover, which is wrapped about the head. The men also make much of the hair, which they wear long and tie in knots at the back. Both men and women add to their power of attraction if not to their beauty by staining their teeth black, which they of course make doubly conspicuous by smiling on the slightest provocation. The Cambodians are a strange people, but they do not seem at all out of place in this aggregation of unique representatives from the four corners of the earth. The exhibition is one of people as well as things and in this respect excels anything in the history of the world.

One of the characteristics of the exposition is the big chimney, which is a rare combination of utility and art. This chimney required in its construction 1,500,000 ordinary bricks without counting the ceramic bricks. It weighs 8,000,000 kilograms and cost 203,000 francs.

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